Central Potato and Sweet Potato Research Centre (CSARC)

Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the *International Potato Centre's South Asia Regional Centre* at Agra, as a regional hub of the *International Potato Center*.

- **Central Potato and Sweet Potato Research Centre (CSARC)** – It will be established at Singna, Agra district, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- **Parent organization –** CSARC is a regional arm of the **International Potato Center (CIP)**, headquartered in **Lima, Peru**.

  *CIP was founded in **1971** is a global research-for-development organization focused on potato, sweet potato, and other Andean roots and tubers.*

- It will serve farmers in India, especially in major potato-producing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and other states.
- It will also cater to other South Asian countries.

Objectives

- To improve food and nutrition security.
- To enhance farmers' income and create employment opportunities.
  - To promote development of high-yielding, nutrient-rich, climate-resilient potato and sweet potato varieties.
  - To promote post-harvest management, processing, value addition, and market access.
- **Project cost & funding –** Total Project Cost is Rs **171 crore** with Rs **111 crore** contributed by the Government of India and Rs **60 crore** contributed by the International Potato Center (CIP).

Importance for India

- It supports India's status as the second-largest producer and consumer of

potatoes globally.
- It is expected to strengthen the potato and sweet potato sectors through scientific research and innovation.
- It complements existing Indian research institutions like:
    - **ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI)**, Shimla (Potato research).
    - **ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI)**, Thiruvananthapuram (Sweet potato and tuber crops research).

Significance

- Boost to climate-resilient agriculture.
- Enhances India's role in international agricultural research.
- Builds on India's successful model of hosting international agricultural research centres, like:
    - IRRI-South Asia Regional Centre, Varanasi (for rice research).

Reference

The Indian Express |Centre approves International Potato Centre

